Dangerous Explosive I Used for Shooting Oil Wells

CAN'T BE MADE SAFE

Number of Fatalities Less Since Automobiles Were Adopted

BY HARVEY E. RHODES.

There is not much remarce in this startling earning whith may be observed daily in the flourabing oil regions, painted in bold latters on the sides and rear of nitroglyceria cars used for transporting this deadly fluid from an obscurely located factory, or magazine to oil with factory, or magazine, to oil wells that are to be shot

Yet nitroglycovin, most danger-ous and unmenageable of practical explosives, has an alsorbing ro-mano, even though the record of its mance, even though the record of its nee abounds with sanguinary chapters. Without its discovery, it may be quite confidently presumed that the worlds oil production would never have reached the present level, for no other explosive in the comparatively long list can fill its peculiar place in blasting great caverns and deep crevices in the bowels of mother earth where black gold may accumulate to be pumped to the surface for man's use. face for man's use,

Invented, or rather first mixed by a European chemist in 1846 for medicinal purposes, it has produced millions of dollars worth of petro-

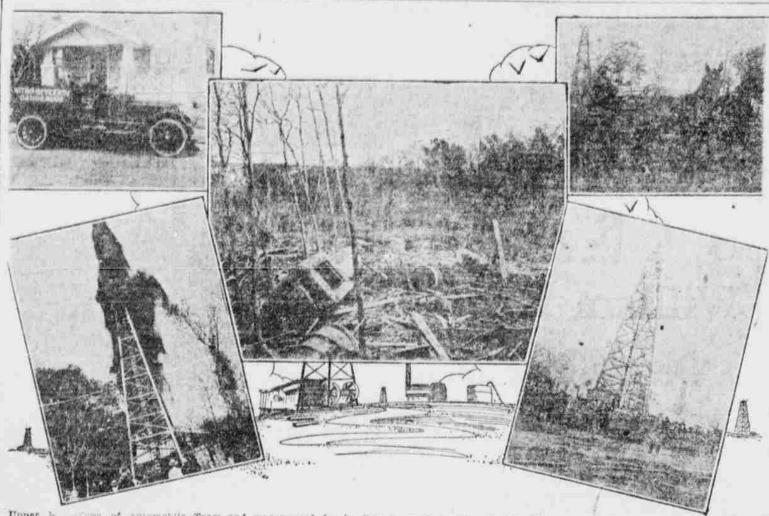
millions of dollars worth of petro-leum by causing or increasing the flow form stubborn oil wells.

Its value as an explosive was dis-covered by accident. Since then, al-though one of man's greatest wealth-producing servants, it has taken a frightful toil of human lives that were snuffed out in less than the working of an eve-

were sourced out in rese than the twinkling of an eye.

Despite its crimson history, nitro-gly erin's use has steadily increased to keep pace with oil development, to which it is considered indispensible. No way has been discovered to make it safe. The subtraction of any ingredient renders it useless and any addition to assure safety detracts

NITRO-GLYCERINE Development of Nitroglycerin Business Reveals Very Romantic Side of the Oil Business in America



with the southers believed to be the southers are introduced to the souther

powder in A. F. Haymond's well at franklin. The fin case holding the powder collapsed under press. In filled to overflowing and the Roberts bowder collapsed under press. In filled to overflowing and the Roberts bowder collapsed under press. In filled to overflowing and the Roberts bowder collapsed under press. In filled to overflowing and the Roberts bowder following and the Roberts bowder collapsed under press. In filled to overflowing and the Roberts bowder of the will have a collapsed the freed torped with a sealed and it could the freed torped on the deal and it could the freed torped on the deal and it could the filled to overflowing and the Roberts bowder in the sealed and it could be freed torped on the deal and it could the freed torped on the Willow Fleming farm four mits south of Titusville Five appoints of powder in an earthen but lie, attached to a string of sas pipe, were explosed at 250 feet by dropping a red hot iron through the pipe. The shock threw the water out of the hole, threw out the pipe with such force as to knock the walking beam and sammon poid down, agisted the water in Oil creek, and threw out oil.

"Tubing was put is The old herse with such force as to knock the walking beam and sammon poid down, agisted the water in Oil creek, and threw out oil.

"The vase was contested keenly for four years, coming up for final settlement in May of 1879. By unlimaged the walking beam and sammon poid that explosives had been used in waster wells and oil wells, substantially in the manner patented by fitters, years before the holder of the patent had been heard of as a light thrown apparently would not reverse them salves to matter how convincing the monopoly in previous suits and apparently would not reverse them salves to matter how convincing the monopoly in previous suits and apparently would not reverse them salves to matter how convincing the monopoly in previous suits and apparently would not reverse them salves to man poured some of its season. The flood of light thrown apparently would not

This was the first successful torpologing of an oil well.

"Frederick Crocker in 1864 arranged a torpolog the dropped into a well and fired by a pisso certifice."

"Colonel Roberts deed at Thusville in the bottom of the time shiel. About their torpologies were exploded from 1860 to 1862, all of them in wells filled with water which served as lamping.

"William Read make a can stroug on the situation. He left a which served as lamping.

"William for make a can stroug on the presence of white, let it down the tribswell well on Cherry Rum 1881 falled to discharge in by electricity and exploded it by silding a hollow weight down a string to strike a percursion cap.

"Notwithstanding those facts, which demonstrated that the field of cit and water had been impraced by exploding power hundreds of feet under water, in November of 1864. Cot. E. A. L. Roberts applied for a patient for 'a process of increasing the productiveness of oil wells by causing point, it connection with superincumbent fluid tamping."

"Captain Mills permitted him to the supposed oil on the summer of the supposed oil on the summer less than any check at Thusville with one arm torn off rund crushed to left. The first fatality from the use of the surpose of the concussion. The first fatality from the use of the surpose of 1864, at Henry Run, owning wells near the concussion. "In August, 1871, Charl and water had been impraced by causing an explosion of guipowder or the first and the process of increasing the productiveness of oil wells by causing point, it connection with superincumbent fluid tamping."

"Captain Mills permitted him to the first and the effect of region reactly.

"Colonel Roberts ded at Thusville work in the derick well with water against the left at a water of a milling dollars well with water the destroy of the most of the most of a milling dollars and one of the most of a milling dollars. The first fatality from the use of the capture with the first well with water the oil regions for the capture with the first with the effect of t

"Captain Mills permitted him to teat his process in the Ladies' well-near Titusville, on January 21 Two torpedoes were exploded and the well flowed oil and paraffins. Wil-liam Reed and several others filed Upper is type of automobile the first of factory to the used to transport nitroglycerin before automobiles. The remains of a altroglycerin factory to the well ten-quart cans of explosive fit wars adopted. Old-style in torpe- tory after an explosion which killed was explosed. Notice the large ments behind driver. Upper right— ine is lowered into well may be seen to be not to be fired.

The remains of a altroglycerin factory to the wars adopted. Old-style in torpe- tory after an explosion which killed was explosed. Notice the large proved about the derrick waiting for Roberts and commenced proceedings for interference as the containers in which gives. The suits dragged out for two was explosed. Notice the large proved about the derrick waiting for Roberts and he secured the patent was containers in which gives. The suits dragged out for two was explosed. Notice the large proved about the derrick waiting for Roberts and commenced proceedings for interference as the containers in which gives. The suits dragged out for two was explosed. Notice the large proved about the derrick waiting for Roberts and commenced proceedings for interference as the containers in which gives the containers in th

building one morning in August, he the woodwork and tires we was seen no more. How it occurred hundreds of yards. Ha none could tell, but a frightful exwheel landed near the top plosion shivered the building, tore a tree and for many rods hole in the ground and annihilated was stripped of its bran-Munson. The mangled bits were foliage. Part of the face, carefully gathered up, put into a moustache and four teeth small box and sent to his former was the largest portion of the stripped of the branch foliage. small box and sent to his fore home in New York for Interment.

ative safety the deadly stuff was laces. In 1867 the Robert's com-The sensation produced by the first fatallity had not entirely subdeed when the second victim was is noticeable that pioneer added to the list that has since empanies have not adopte comparative safety the deadly stuff contending it cannot be in managines located in was kept in magazines located in iplated places. In 1887 the Roberts ompany built one of these re-eptacles two miles from Titusville, the side of a hill excavated for

Thither Patrick Brophy, who had superiority in blasting below the earth's surface in July, 1868. An hour later a terrorific explosion burst upon the surcounding country with indescribable violence. Horses and people on the treets of Titusville were thrown lown, chimneys trembled, windows fropped into atoms and for a time the rank was freeful. he panic was fearful.

"In August, 1871, Charle

nitroglycerin in a vehicle dra one horse. By the side of hi a piece of rough road had traveled. There the than

added to a list that has since length-isept in magazines located in isolated aned aparilingly. To insure compar-basic constituent, but with treme harard in handling err and users make ex-claims for these new exp tanelty and force of its exp reaction. Therein, the old shooters

purpose.
"Thither Patrick Brophy, who had superiority in blasting boles phatically insist that nitrogl "The thought auggested itself that can't be made afe and still the glycerin magazine had blown up. Its value and efficiency in short once thousands started for the oil wells.

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